

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

Maroon/Snowmass Trail #1975—BUCKSKIN PASS

Length: 4.8 miles one-way (7.72 km one-way)

Difficulty: Difficult

Trail Use: Very Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 9,580 feet (2920 m)

Ending Elevation: 12,462 feet (3798 m)

USGS Map(s): Maroon Bells

PERMIT INFORMATION: In order to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. **Each party overnighiting** in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is **required to self-register at the Trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: A very popular but steep day hike often used as a starting point for extended backpacking trips into the wilderness. Great views of Maroon Bells, Pyramid Peak, and Snowmass Lake are offered. **Overnight camping is available in Minnehaha Gulch. Camping is prohibited in the alpine meadow and not available until the other side of Buckskin Pass.**

ACCESS: From mid-June through September, Maroon Creek Road is restricted to vehicles from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beyond the T-Lazy 7 Ranch. Take the shuttle from Aspen Highlands Ski Area, which leaves every 20 minutes; dogs are allowed on the bus.

The Maroon Bells Scenic Area is a recreation fee area; there is a *mandatory fee*. The Interagency, Senior & Golden Access Passes are honored. From the Hwy 82 roundabout just west of Aspen, take the Maroon Creek Road turn. In approximately 1 mile is Aspen Highlands, *turn left here for the shuttle!* If arriving during non-bus hours, continue another 4 miles to the Welcome Station. The use fee will be collected here, or in the fee tube immediately behind the station if un-manned; continue another 5 miles to the parking lot at Maroon Lake.

NARRATIVE: The trail starts at Maroon Lake and follows lakeside until it reaches the Forest Service bulletin board at the far end of the lake. Stay on the Maroon-Snowmass Trail which ascends on rocky paths through the aspens to the top of a rocky rise before it descends to Crater Lake. At the Crater Lake bulletin board, the trail forks to the right and climbs steeply through aspen and spruce forest for 1 mile to Minnehaha Gulch. A stream divides the nearly one mile long gulch in half with campsites available before and after the stream crossing. The trail continues its steep ascent exiting the gulch into an alpine meadow with Buckskin Pass looming ahead. A trail sign for the Maroon-Snowmass /Willow Lake junction appears in another 1/2 mile. Take the left fork which continues to follow the Maroon-Snowmass Trail through the meadow to a series of switchbacks that climb steeply to Buckskin Pass. If hiking beyond the pass, the next available campsites are 2 miles ahead.

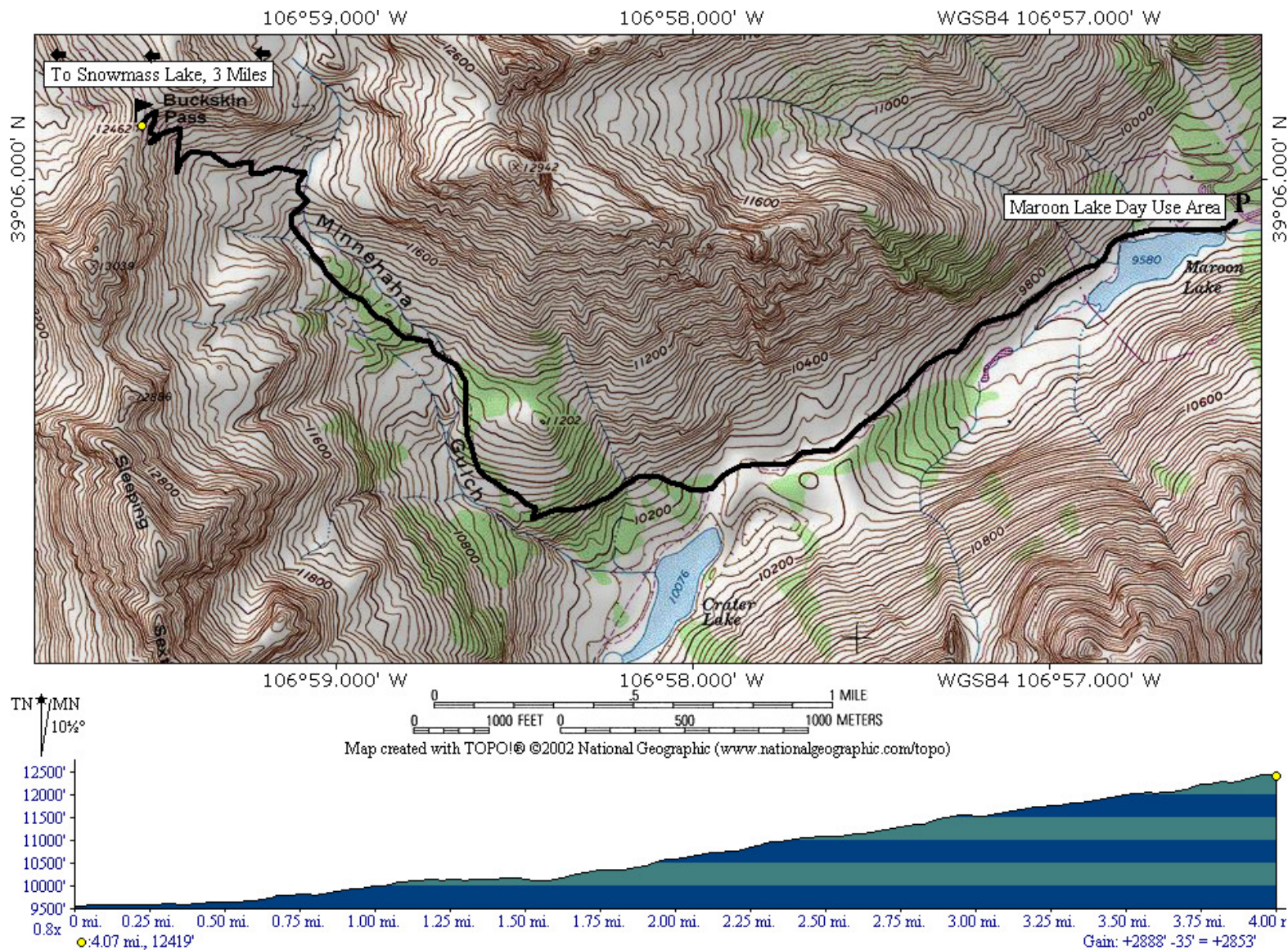
ETHICS/REGULATIONS: The Buckskin Pass Trail is located within the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness. Please educate yourself about hiking ethincs and the following rules:

- **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for both people & wildlife
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals
- **SANITATION**—bury human waste 100 ft from water & trail and at least 6 inches deep
- **No Fires above 10,800 ft.** Lightweight campstover are recommended
- **BEAR CANISTERS REQUIRED** for all overnight visitors

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your hiking trip.

ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST BUCKSKIN PASS TRAIL #1975



FOREST ORDER

USDA - FOREST SERVICE WHITE RIVER AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS MAROON BELLS-SNOWMASS WILDERNESS

Wilderness Occupancy and Use Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 551 and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §§ 261.50(a) and 261.50(b), the following acts are prohibited within the **Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness** of the White River and Gunnison National Forests, Pitkin and Gunnison Counties, State of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as the Restricted Area. The Restricted Area is further depicted on the attached maps, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

This Order is necessary for the protection of Wilderness character and resources and to protect human safety and property.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Entering or being in the Restricted Area with more than 10 people per group or with more than 15 pack or saddle animals per group. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(a).
2. Camping:
 - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, pond, river or other similar body of water, or any National Forest System Trail;
 - b) Within ¼ mile of Conundrum Hot Springs, Copper Lake, Crater Lake, Geneva Lake, Capitol Lake, and Thomas Lakes, except at designated campsites. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(e).
3. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or wood-burning stove:
 - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, or National Forest System Trail;
 - b) Within ¼ mile of Crater Lake;
 - c) Above 10,800 ft. elevation, as shown on Exhibit A; 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).
4. Hitching, tethering or hobbling any pack or saddle animal:
 - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, pond, river or other similar body of water or any National Forest System Trail;
 - b) Within ¼ mile of Crater Lake, Conundrum Hot Springs, or Snowmass Lake. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(aa).
6. Possessing a dog, except for working stock dogs and/or dogs used for legal hunting purposes, unless under physical restraint of a leash not to exceed six (6) feet in length. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).
7. Possessing a dog within the Conundrum Creek Valley from Silver Dollar Pond (2.25 miles North of Conundrum Hot Springs) to Triangle Pass (1.5 miles Southwest of Conundrum Hot Springs), including Conundrum Hot Springs, as depicted in Exhibit A. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).

8. Possessing, storing, or transporting any plant material, such as hay or straw.
Note: An exception is allowed for livestock feed that has been processed through chemical or mechanical means in a manner that will destroy viable seeds. Examples of excepted material include: pelletized feed and rolled grains. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(t)
9. Possessing or using a wagon, cart, or other vehicle including a wheelbarrow, bicycle or game cart. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(h)
10. Shortcutting a switchback in a trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(e)
11. Entering or being in the Restricted Area without a valid self-registration Wilderness Use Permit for each group or individual camping overnight. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(a)
12. Possessing or storing any food or refuse as specified in the order in the Restricted Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).
EXCEPT WHEN:
 1. The food or refuse is "acceptably stored" or "acceptably possessed" during daytime hours;
 2. The food or refuse is being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, being prepared for acceptable storage, or is "acceptably stored" during nighttime hours.

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt:

- (1) Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty.

This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded, or until December 31, 2020, whichever event occurs first. This Order supersedes, replaces, and rescinds Order No. 2003-08.

Done at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, this 18th day of February, 2016.



SCOTT FITZWILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest

Done at Delta, Colorado, this 19th day of February, 2016.



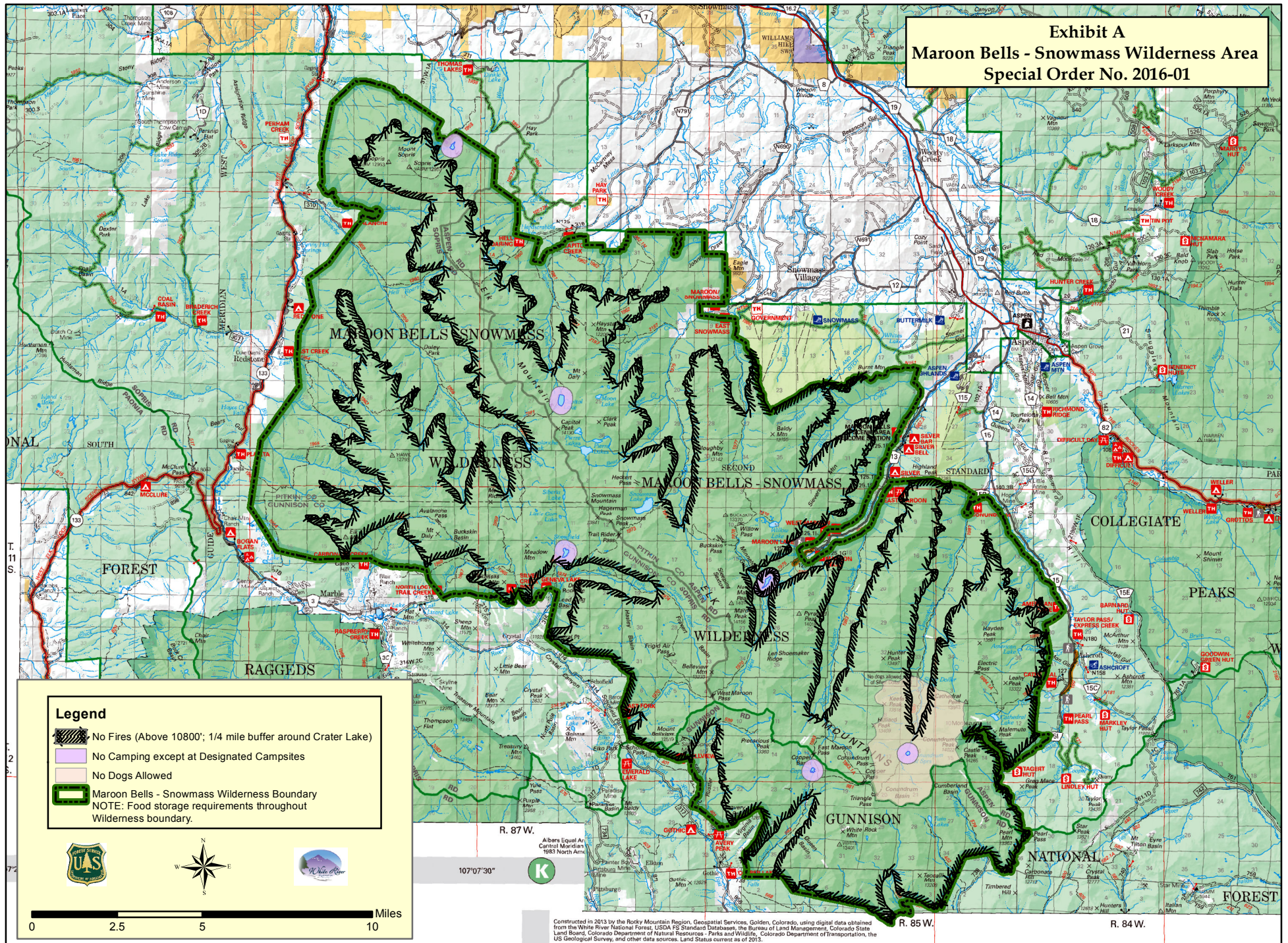
SCOTT ARMENTROUT
Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

Violations of these regulations is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization,, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559 and 3571

Definitions:

1. "Food and Refuse" means any substance, solid or liquid (excluding water) which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal or any refuse which might attract bears. It includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, processed livestock feed and grains, personal hygiene products, and empty food and beverage containers and any item that may attract bears including, but not limited to, trash, food residue, garbage, pet foods/feeders, cooking utensils and equipment, cooking grills, personal care products, and coolers.
2. "Acceptably stored" means:
 - A) Stored in bear-resistant container certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program.
 - B) Stored by other methods approved in a permit issued by the Forest Supervisor responsible for the area where the method is proposed for use.
 - C) Meat carcasses or game parts harvested by hunting that occurred legally under Colorado State Hunting Laws are more than 100 yards from overnight camping site.
3. "Acceptably possessed" means possessed or attended during daytime by a person that is physically present within 100 feet and direct sight of the accessible food, refuse, or item.
4. "Daytime" means ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, Mountain Time.
5. "Nighttime" means ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, Mountain Time.

Exhibit A
Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness Area
Special Order No. 2016-01



Food Storage and Sanitation Order

Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness, White River National Forest

Your safety is important

This food storage order was created to help keep you and other forest visitors safe by avoiding encounters with bears and preventing bears from being attracted to camping areas frequented by people.

All food and other items that might attract bears must be stored where bears can't access them at night and during the daytime when they are unattended. "Attended" means that a person is physically present within 100 feet and in direct sight of items that must be stored in a bear-resistant manner.



These items must be properly stored

- 1) Human food including fresh and canned food, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and unclean cooking equipment and supplies
- 2) This also includes garbage, food scraps, and empty food and beverage containers.
- 3) Attractants including pet food and edible hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste and deodorants.

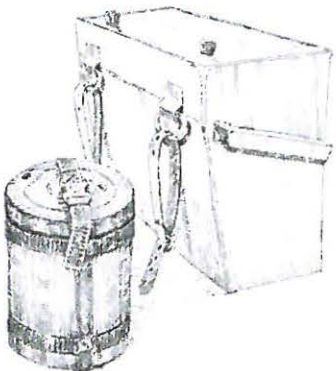
Proper storage methods

Proper storage methods include placing food and other items in hard-sided bear resistant containers. Legally harvested meat carcasses or game parts must be stored more than 100 yards from overnight camping sites unless acceptably possessed.

Bear resistant containers

Approved hard-sided bear resistant horse panniers and backpackers' containers that are certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program.

NOTE: Plastic or metal food coolers, soft-sided containers, backpacks, and leather or canvas horse panniers are NOT bear resistant containers.



Bear Resistant Canisters

Required for overnight camping in Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area

Recommended for Hunter Fryingpan Wilderness Area

Available at the following locations:

Aspen

Aspen Expeditions (across the plaza)

\$10/day to rent, plus \$10 cleaning fee upon return

\$95 to purchase

Four-Mountain Sports (through doors in lobby)

No rental

\$85 to purchase

Ute Mountaineer (on Galena St. in Aspen)

\$8/day to rent

\$50 (approximately) to purchase

Basalt

Bristlecone (in Willits area near Starbucks)

Carbondale

Ragged Mountain Sports

902 CO-133 (off Roundabout)

\$6/day to rent

\$80 to purchase

Glenwood Springs

Factory Outdoors (on Hwy

82) No rental

\$80 to purchase

Summit Canyon Mountaineering (corner of 8th and Grand

Ave.) No rental

\$80 to purchase

Front Range

Various REI locations